

JAPANESE PATENT APPLICATION No. 2004-089614

[Name of Document] **ABSTRACT**

[Abstract]

[Object] Provided is a processing method and a processing apparatus of a glass base material, with which a welding process of a large glass base material and a process of forming ends of the glass base material into spindle shapes are easily and safely performed without causing core deviation or causing an accident of falling off of the glass base material.

[Means for Achieving the Object] Provided is a processing method of processing a glass base material for an optical fiber using a processing apparatus, the processing apparatus including: a pair of rotatable chucks that directly or indirectly grasp respective ends of the glass base material in an axial direction of the glass base material and that are capable of performing relative displacement in an opposing direction; and a burner for heating the glass base material that is movable along the axial direction of the glass base material being grasped, the processing method being characterized by processing the glass base material while preventing the glass base material from being brought into a cantilever state by always holding or supporting the glass base material at two or more points. The processing apparatus includes at least one midway holding device that holds or supports midway part of the glass base material.

[Selected Figure] FIG.3